

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 652

Introduced by Assembly Member Leno

February 19, 2003

An act to ~~repeal and add Section 4980.02~~ *amend Sections 4980.02 and 4996.9 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to marriage and family therapists healing arts.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 652, as amended, Leno. ~~Marriage and family therapists~~
Healing arts.

(1) Existing law regulates and licenses the marriage and family therapists and defines the practice of marriage and family therapy.

This bill would revise this definition to include, ~~among other things,~~ the diagnosis, treatment, prognosis, prevention, and treatment of mental, nervous, and emotional disorders within the context of marriage and family systems and would define it as the act or process of identifying or determining the mental status of an individual through examination, and the opinion derived from that examination.

(2) Existing law regulates the practice of clinical social workers by the Board of Behavioral Sciences and defines the practice of clinical social workers.

This bill would revise this definition to include the application of specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills in the areas of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions, and addictions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

~~SECTION 1. Section 4980.02 of the Business and Professions~~

SECTION 1. *Section 4980.02 of the Business and Professions
Code is amended to read:*

4980.02. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the practice of marriage and family therapy shall mean that service performed with individuals, couples, or groups wherein interpersonal relationships are examined for the purpose of achieving more adequate, satisfying, and productive marriage and family adjustments. This practice includes relationship and premarriage counseling.

(b) The application of marriage and family therapy principles and methods includes, but is not limited to, *diagnosis* and the use of applied psychotherapeutic techniques, to enable individuals to mature and grow within marriage and the family, and the provision of explanations and interpretations of the psychosexual and psychosocial aspects of relationships.

(c) For purposes of this section, “*diagnosis*” means the act or process of identifying or determining the mental status of an individual through examination and the opinion derived from that examination.

SEC. 2. *Section 4996.9 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:*

4996.9. (a) The practice of clinical social work is defined as a service in which a special knowledge of social resources, human capabilities, and the ~~part that unconscious motivation plays in determining behavior, is directed at helping~~ professional use of self to help people to achieve more adequate, satisfying, and productive social adjustments, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning, and requires the application of specialized clinical knowledge and advanced clinical skills in the areas of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions, and addictions.

(b) The application of social work principles and methods includes, but is not restricted to, counseling and using applied psychotherapy of a nonmedical nature with individuals, families,

1 or groups; providing information and referral services; providing
2 or arranging for the provision of social services; explaining or
3 interpreting the psychosocial aspects in the situations of
4 individuals, families, or groups; helping communities to organize,
5 to provide, or to improve social or health services; or doing
6 research related to social work.

7 (c) Psychotherapy, within the meaning of this chapter, is the use
8 of psychosocial methods within a professional relationship, to
9 assist the person or persons to achieve a better psychosocial
10 adaptation, to acquire greater human realization of psychosocial
11 potential and adaptation, to modify internal and external
12 conditions which affect individuals, groups, or communities in
13 respect to behavior, emotions, and thinking, in respect to their
14 intrapersonal and interpersonal processes, *and to diagnose and*
15 *treat mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders, conditions, and*
16 *addictions.*

17 *SEC. 3. Nothing in this act is intended to expand the scope of*
18 *practice of either a marriage and family therapist, or a licensed*
19 *clinical social worker.*

20 ~~Code is repealed.~~

21 ~~SEC. 2. Section 4980.02 is added to the Business and~~
22 ~~Professions Code, to read:~~

23 ~~4980.02. (a) For the purposes of this chapter, the practice of~~
24 ~~marriage and family therapy means the rendering of professional~~
25 ~~marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples, and~~
26 ~~families, singly or in groups.~~

27 ~~(b) Marriage and family therapy includes, but is not limited to,~~
28 ~~the following:~~

29 ~~(1) The diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, prevention, and~~
30 ~~treatment of mental, nervous, and emotional disorders, whether~~
31 ~~cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of marriage~~
32 ~~and family systems.~~

33 ~~(2) The professional application of psychotherapeutic and~~
34 ~~family system theories and techniques in the delivery of services~~
35 ~~to individuals, couples, and families to treat and diagnose mental,~~
36 ~~nervous, and emotional disorders.~~